

CLAIMS

- 5 1. A device for retracting gingival tissue away from a tooth, the device comprising a preformed integral closed loop of material sized and dimensioned to be packed into a sulcus associated with the tooth, the closed loop having an inner surface suitable for placement against the tooth and an outer surface suitable for placement against gingival tissue.
- 10 2. A device as a recited in claim 1, wherein the loop consists of at least two materials.
- 15 3. A device as a recited in claim 2, wherein the loop consists essentially of two materials.
4. A method of retracting gingival tissue away from a tooth having a sulcus associated therewith, comprising the step of inserting into the sulcus a closed loop of material as defined in claims 1.
- 20 5. A method of preparing a tooth for a dental procedure comprising the steps of:
(A) removing a portion of a tooth to create a tooth abutment;
(B) placing a device as recited in claim 1 around the tooth abutment;
and
(C) packing the device into a sulcus associated with the tooth.
- 25 6. A method of preparing a tooth as recited in claim 5, further comprising the step of (D) removing the device from the sulcus.
- 30 7. A method of a preparing a tooth as recited in claim 5, wherein the step of packing the device into the sulcus comprises the steps of (i) placing a pressure cap around the tooth abutment on top of the device and (ii) exerting pressure on the pressure cap.
- 35 8. A method of preparing a tooth as recited in claim 5, further comprising, after the step of removing a portion of the tooth, the step of preparing a provisional restoration, and wherein the step of packing the device into the sulcus comprises

the steps of (i) placing the provisional restoration on the tooth abutment on top of the device and (ii) exerting pressure on the provisional restoration.

- 5 9. A method of preparing a tooth as recited in claim 5, further comprising, after the step of removing a portion of the tooth, the step of preparing a provisional restoration having a margin, and wherein the step of placing the device around the tooth comprises the steps of (i) releasably adhering the device to the margin of the provisional restoration and then (ii) placing the provisional restoration on the tooth abutment, and wherein the step of packing the device into the sulcus
10 comprises the step of exerting pressure on the provisional restoration.
- 15 10. A method of preparing a tooth as recited in claim 5, further comprising, after the step of removing a portion of the tooth, the step of applying injection paste to the device before the device is placed around the tooth abutment.
- 20 11. A method of preparing a tooth as recited in claim 5, further comprising, after the step of removing a portion of the tooth, the step of applying injection paste into the sulcus before the device is placed around the tooth abutment.
- 25 12. A method of preparing a tooth as recited in claim 6, further comprising, after the step of removing a portion of the tooth, the step of applying injection paste to the device before the device is placed around the tooth abutment.
- 30 13. A method of preparing a tooth as recited in claim 6, further comprising, after the step of removing a portion of the tooth, the step of applying injection paste into the sulcus before the device is placed around the tooth abutment.
- 35 14. A method of preparing a tooth as recited in claim 7, further comprising, after the step of removing a portion of the tooth, the step of applying injection paste to the device before the device is placed around the tooth abutment.
15. A method of preparing a tooth as recited in claim 7, further comprising, after the step of removing a portion of the tooth, the step of applying injection paste into the sulcus before the device is placed around the tooth abutment.

16. A method of preparing a tooth as recited in claim 8, further comprising, after the step of removing a portion of the tooth, the step of applying injection paste to the device before the device is placed around the tooth abutment.
- 5 17. A method of preparing a tooth as recited in claim 8, further comprising, after the step of removing a portion of the tooth, the step of applying injection paste into the sulcus before the device is placed around the tooth abutment.
- 10 18. A method of preparing a tooth as recited in claim 9, further comprising, after the step of removing a portion of the tooth, the step of applying injection paste to the device before the device is placed around the tooth abutment.
- 15 19. A method of preparing a tooth as recited in claim 9, further comprising, after the step of removing a portion of the tooth, the step of applying injection paste into the sulcus before the device is placed around the tooth abutment.
- 20 20. A method of preparing a tooth for a dental procedure comprising the steps of:
(A) removing a portion of a tooth to create a tooth abutment;
(B) preparing a provisional restoration having a margin;
(C) adhering material to the margin of the provisional restoration;
(D) placing the provisional restoration on the tooth abutment; and
(E) exerting pressure on the provisional restoration to pack the material into a sulcus associated with the tooth.